

What is claimed is:

1. A communication system coupled to a wide area communication network comprising a plurality of network resources, the communication system providing voice and data communications in an office and comprising:

5 at least a first packet bus coupled to one or more packet-based devices and adapted for transferring packetized data to and from the system;

at least one time division multiplex (TDM) bus coupled to one or more telephony devices and selectively coupled to the first packet bus and the wide area communication network;

a processor;

10 wherein the processor selectively controls voice communications from the one or more telephony devices over the TDM bus and packet-based communications over the first packet bus, wherein voice communications that stay in a circuit-switched form in the communication system occur over the TDM bus and the wide area communication network, and wherein packet-based communications are selectively coupled to the wide area communications network via the TDM bus;

15 wherein the communication system includes one or more station cards for interfacing to one or more of the telephony devices, wherein at least one of the station cards comprises:

an input for receiving an input voltage of a first voltage level from an external power supply;

20 a voltage generation circuit on the station card, wherein the voltage generation circuit generates one or more control voltages/signals of at least a second voltage level different from the first voltage level for controlling the one or more telephony devices from the input voltage; and

one or more interface circuits receiving the one or more control voltages/signals, wherein  
25 the one or more interface circuits are coupled to the one or more telephony devices.

2. The communication system of claim 1, further comprising one or more protect circuits coupled between the one or more interface circuits and the one or more telephony devices.

3. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the station card is coupled to a plurality of telephony devices and includes a plurality of interface circuits, the station card further comprising:

a control circuit coupled to the plurality of interface circuits;

5 a bus interface coupled to the processor;

wherein the control signals are received from the processor through the bus interface, wherein the control circuit controls the interface circuits and controls operation of the plurality of telephony devices.

4. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the one or more telephony devices

10 comprise analog telephony devices.

5. The communication system of claim 4, wherein the interface circuits each comprise a circuit for interfacing with and supplying control voltages to the one or more telephony devices and an audio processing circuit.

6. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the one or more telephony devices 15 comprise digital telephony devices.

7. The communication system of claim 6, wherein the interface circuits comprise control/logic circuits for supplying control voltages to the digital telephony devices.

8. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the station card is coupled to a plurality of telephony devices, wherein the telephony devices include both analog telephony devices and digital telephony devices, wherein an analog interface circuit is provided for each analog telephony device, and a digital interface circuit is provided for each digital telephony device.